OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India has set up Software technology Parks in the following States :

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The Government of west Bengal and Goa have also set-up STPs in their States.

It is proposed to extend Software technology Park facility to all the States in the country subject to technical, administrative and financial constraints. Meanwhile, STPs for the following States have already been approved and are being set-up :—

1. Guwahati in Assam
2. Gangtok (as a hub centre to STPI-Guwahati) in Sikkim
3. Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir

Other locations under consideration include Agartala (Tripura), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Hubli (Karnataka).

The estimated cost for the setting up of STP, excluding land and building varies from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 5 crore depending upon the technical requirements.

Proposal to Press for IT Services in the ITA

4182. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India proposed to press for Information technology Services in the 2nd round of I.T. Agreement (ITA) at the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the strategy devised to facilitate granting of trade visas to software professionals?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No. Sir, The IT services and granting of visas do not come under the purview of IT Agreement at the World Trade Organisation.

(b) Does not arise.